



Illinois Department of Revenue



Illinois Attorney General

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For immediate release

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The Illinois Department of Revenue, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, and local law enforcement authorities seized video poker machines in three southern Illinois counties on Thursday after undercover agents identified eight establishments paying off on the machines.

"The owners of these illegal machines are not paying tax on the money that they generate," said Revenue Director Brian Hamer. "Today's action sends a strong message that we will not tolerate this activity."

"These actions are the beginning of a full effort by our office and other Illinois law enforcement to deter and ultimately help put an end to the flagrant disregard of Illinois gambling laws by some local businesses," Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan said. "We intend to investigate and take appropriate action not only against local businesses that break our laws, but also against owners and distributors of video poker and slot machines which are being used illegally as gaming devices when they are only licensed and intended for amusement purposes."

Ten individuals have been arrested, 48 video poker machines were confiscated, and \$3,800 in cash was seized in the operation. The Johnson and Hardin County Sheriff's Departments, the Elizabethtown Police Department, the Illinois Liquor Control Commission, and State Police assisted in the action.

Machines were seized at:

- Big Boys, Old Route 146 Loop, Vienna, IL
- Curve Inn, 2145 State Route 37 N, Buncombe, IL
- Main Street Pub, 306 Main Street, Vienna, IL
- Bee Hive Lounge, 2075 State Route 37 N. Buncombe, IL
- Chuckwagon Café and Saloon, 7707 Main Street, Cypress, IL
- PJ's, 13-15 W. 1st Street, Elizabethtown, IL
- E Town Tap, 1st Street, Elizabethtown, IL
- Shawnee Restaurant & Lounge, Hwy 145, Eddyville, IL

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Acting on a complaint, undercover agents had previously observed workers at each of the establishments paying out cash winnings to patrons playing the video machines. Video poker machines are legal in Illinois for entertainment purposes only. Based on the investigation, the Illinois State Police obtained arrest warrants prior to the raids and Madigan's office will prosecute the cases.

The individuals arrested are charged with "Gambling" (720 ILCS 5.28-1) and "Keeping a Gambling Place" (720 ILCS 5/28-3). Both charges are Class A misdemeanors. Those arrested were:

- Nellie A. Shideler, age 34, Vienna, IL
- Joyce A. Reichert, age 59, Vienna, IL
- Tammy L. Bebout, age 44, Vienna, IL
- Judy Newsom, age 56, Goreville, IL
- Linda K. Boyd, age 50, Buncombe, IL
- Sabrina G. Dickerson, age 35, Vienna, IL
- Linda Sue Johnson, age 58, Vienna, IL
- Patricia R. Damron, age 65, Elizabethtown, IL
- Jackie (Susie) Moore, age 48, Rosiclare, IL
- Gloria Jeannie McCall, age 49, Elizabethtown, IL

The gambling charges also constitute a violation of the state's liquor license statute. The Illinois Liquor Control Commission, who conducted inspections in conjunction with the raids, can act against the licenses of the establishments.

The public is reminded that these charges are accusations. The defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.